GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:378
ANSWERED ON:28.03.2017
Use of Banned Pesticides
Antony Shri Anto ;Rao Shri Rayapati Sambasiva

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the pesticides which are harmful to human health, livestocks and environment still in use, though banned in countries abroad;
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(b) whether the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) of USA has cautioned that India has to take stock of the pesticides under use and ensure that they are replaced by less hazardous products and adopt better integrated pest management approaches and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether despite the ban on use of Endosulfan by the Government, it is still widely used in cultivation and if so, the details thereof along with the steps being taken to ban it completely;

(d) whether the Insecticides Act of 1968 recommends restricted use of Endosulfan and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the mechanism put in place to interact with manufacturers, importers and State authorities on harmful pesticides and the steps taken by the Government to ban the use of harmful pesticides/fertilizers in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
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(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 378 DUE FOR REPLY ON 28TH MARCH, 2017.

(a): The Registration Committee (RC) constituted under Section 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968 registers pesticides after considering their efficacy and safety to human beings, animals and environment. In addition, technical reviews are carried out from time to time to assess the safety of pesticides for their continued use. An expert committee was constituted in July 2013, to review 66 pesticides which are either banned or restricted in one or more countries of the world but continued to be registered in India. The details are at Annexure I.

(b): In this regard, the Registration Committee has not received any communication from Environment Protection Agency (EPA) of USA. However, the Government is popularizing Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach under 'Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India' (SMPMA) Scheme. The scheme seeks to promote cultural, mechanical and biological methods of pest control and recommends judicious and safe use of chemical pesticides as a measure of last resort.

(c): The Hon'ble Supreme Court passed an ad-interim order on 13.05.2011 banning production, sale and use of Endosulfan in the country till further orders. Accordingly, the Central Government issued instructions to all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to implement the interim order of the Court in toto, which are binding on all manufacturers. The Secretariat of Central Insecticides Board & Registration Committee has written to the Pesticide Associations to recall Certificates of Registration for Endosulfan. These certificates are deemed to have been treated as withdrawn in compliance with the ad-interim orders passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

(d): No, However, the Central Government in compliance to the aforesaid direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court has imposed ban on production, use and sale of Endosulfan pesticide in the country.
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(e): The Ministry of Agriculture and Famers' Welfare convenes meeting with manufacturers and importers regularly to review critical issues pertaining to the Pesticides Industry. In addition, Zonal Conferences on Inputs and National Agriculture Conference are organized bi-annually with the State Governments to review, inter alia, monitoring mechanism to ensure quality of the pesticides. Technical reviews of the registered pesticides are carried out from time to time to assess the safety of pesticides for their continued use. Based on this, the Central Government has banned/restricted certain pesticides/insecticides for use in the country. The details

are at Annexure II. In July 2013, an Expert Committee was constituted under the chairmanship of Dr. Anupam Verma, Former National Professor, IARI, New Delhi to review 66 pesticides which are either banned or restricted in one or more countries of the world but continued to be registered in India. Considering the recommendations of the Expert Committee as accorded by the Registration Committee, the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, vide its Notification S.O. 4212(E) dated 15th December 2016, has invited objections and suggestions from the public/stakeholders on banning/phasing out of certain pesticides. The details are at Annexure III.
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